10-1-2006

Bellwether 65, Fall 2006

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BARBARO
AT NEW BOLTON CENTER:
It Takes a Team to Mend a Horse
We’d like to hear your praise, criticisms or comments. Please address your correspondence to: Gail Luciani, Editor University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine 3800 Spruce Street Philadelphia, PA 19104-6010 (215) 898-1475 luciani@vet.upenn.edu

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about the cover:
The incredible healing connection between animals and people is the very foundation of veterinary medicine. Sometimes our compassion is for all living beings; sometimes just one becomes the focus of our commitment to save a life. Dr. Dean Richardson and Kentucky Derby winner Barbaro exemplify that connection here, pictured away from the Hospital’s Intensive Care Unit, walking in the sunlight, united in a fight for survival. Photo by Sabina Louise Pierce.
Letter to Editor

I would like to offer my sincerest praise to a surgeon at the Ryan Veterinary Hospital, Dr. Kelli Russell. I moved from California three years ago with my five cats, one of whom—Mr. Curious—had been with me 11 years, since she was a kitten, and we had gone through some dire straits together. We had to bring her to the Hospital on Friday evening. I knew that I could not find better care than that affiliated with an institution such as Penn.

Though the prognosis for surgery was not good, Kelli was honest and forthright with us, making us at least secure in the knowledge that all that could possibly be done would be done. Unfortunately, Kelli had to come down and tell us that, in the course of surgery, she discovered that our cat was terminal, and we made the hard decision to euthanize her. Then Kelli did something that set her apart from anything or anyone that I have encountered in the entire time I have been on the East Coast. She did not just tell us she was sorry—she hugged us. In that moment, I found a measure of unparalleled competence and compassion that I have not seen in the entire time I have been out here. I hope you can understand the huge difference that made.

I will not forget this, and will be offering what I can in the way of support to the Veterinary School at Penn in the coming years.

Sincerely and with kindest regards,

Tim Hoctor,
Senior Product Manager
Academic, Government, and Emerging Markets
Elsevier MDL

Editor’s note

We live in a world where news is available 24 hours a day—events can happen anywhere around the globe, and in what seems like minutes, footage and interviews are televised, photos and in-depth analyses are posted on Web sites and anyone who wants to can start a discussion on-line in a blog. We have come to expect this instant access to reams of information, sometimes becoming desensitized to catastrophes or events that should give us pause. And yet, every now and then, a story comes along that stands out and captures our attention, drawing us into a timeless narrative of a fight for survival against all odds.

Such is the story of Barbaro. Thousands followed this very special three-year-old colt from his explosion onto the field of racing to his tragic, career-ending misstep at the Preakness on May 20. Thousands more became caught up in his fight for survival, a fight that many horses before him had lost. Barbaro had fractured his leg in three places; he came to Penn Vet’s Widener Hospital that night, and a surgical team led by Dr. Dean Richardson set the bones with the hope that they would fuse in place over time. We knew then that this was just the beginning of a recovery that could take many months, but we didn’t know what highs and lows lay ahead of us.

From the day he arrived at New Bolton Center, Barbaro’s saga became intertwined with our own. Countless media camped out on the hospital grounds those early days in May, and many continue to seek a new angle on this incredible tale of survival. But despite the media’s detailing of cast changes and surgeries, the analyses of why people care, the tallying of baskets of apples and get-well cards, our challenge here in Bellwether is to tell his tale as no one else has, and in fact, as no one else can. How did New Bolton Center handle the glare of the international spotlight, its 15 minutes of fame? The answer is, by doing what it always does, by doing what all four departments and both hospitals at Penn Vet do each and every day—by living our mission of teaching, healing and discovery.

I hope you will find our account of how the people of New Bolton cared for this and other very special patients in the summer of 2006 both informative and interesting. As we go to press, Barbaro remains in stable condition, and along with his legions of fans around the world, we are rooting for this magnificent animal, as the faculty, staff and students at both the Widener and Ryan Veterinary Hospitals continue to provide the finest of care to all our patients.

—GAIL LUCIANI
Since before written history, the connection with animals has been a precious feature of the human experience. We have long relied on domestic animals to enrich and enliven our existence through their companionship, work, and service. Recent tragedies have reminded us just how intense this emotional connection can be. Last year, the hurricanes that struck the Gulf Coast displaced thousands of people and their animals; veterinarians were drawn into the public outcry to help the animals and people stay together. More recently, we have been reminded of the strength of the human-animal bond as Barbaro exploded onto the horse-racing scene. He came to the Kentucky Derby a champion and emerged as a legend-in-the-making. Clearly, his dominant performance forged the links between Barbaro and his owners Roy and Gretchen Jackson, his trainer Michael Matz, his jockey Edgar Prado and his fans across the globe. We seemed to be more than just connecting with him—we were identifying with this horse. We all felt the surge of energy as he galloped down the stretch in Louisville to a commanding victory.

Just as powerfully, we felt the pain when Barbaro suffered a terrible injury in the opening furlong of the Preakness. In the days since, the Jacksons have responded to media questions about why they and people all around the world want so much for this three-year-old colt to survive, regardless of cost. It could be Barbaro’s beauty or his extraordinary athleticism. Perhaps it is an ancient, even prehistoric connection between people and equines.

Whatever the reason, Barbaro’s collapse and the expert care he received brought a new awareness to the technology and advancements in veterinary medicine. The sight of Barbaro in the hospital, along with the articulate updates by Dr. Dean Richardson, had a huge impact on people, bringing renewed attention to the distinctive skills and healing touch of veterinarians. Ordinarily out of the headlines, veterinarians are committed to excellence, public service, helping animals, caring for all species. We are not merely doctors of animal science but lovers of animals ourselves, and we bring that uniquely human touch to our brand of medicine. At New Bolton Center, Dr. Richardson and his team of anesthesiologists, criticalists, veterinary nurses and fellow surgeons have focused media attention to that wonderful humanity as they care for Barbaro.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, too, has shown its awareness of the importance of veterinary medicine to animals and people, not only in the region, but across the country. Governor Ed Rendell recently released the first $13.5 million increment of the $30 million included in the capital appropriations for rebuilding the Hospital facilities at New Bolton Center. This funding will allow two crucial steps to occur: (1) installing a digester to safely handle tissues from animals with infectious diseases, including any potential outbreaks of avian influenza, and (2) building a state-of-the-art facility for horses with colic and patients at high risk for infectious diseases. This facility will allow the superb care at New Bolton Center to be conducted more efficiently, more comfortably and it will allow us to identify and contain any new outbreaks more quickly and confidently. This is the beginning of a major rebuilding project that will lead to more animals being safely hospitalized while they receive the finest of care. Our goal is to match this amount with funds raised from private donations in our upcoming Capital Campaign, enabling a state-of-the-art rebuilding of the Widener Hospital facilities.

What was a tragedy has become an opportunity for the world to see veterinarians doing what they do best and to help them do it even better. We are grateful of course for state funding and generous contributions to the Barbaro Fund, but also for the apples, mints, carrots, flowers and hand-drawn signs left by the public at the entrance to New Bolton Center. These and the daily postings on the Web site all show how widespread and deep the bonds so many of us share with Barbaro and with all animals are. As we wait with both hope and fear for Barbaro’s recovery, we appreciate anew the force of animal-human connections and the value of the people who work every day to maintain those incredible bonds.

—JOAN HENDRICKS, V’79, GR’80
THE GILBERT S. KAHN DEAN OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
Everybody on a championship team doesn’t get publicity, but everyone can say he’s a champion.

Earvin “Magic” Johnson

It Takes a Team to Mend a Horse: How New Bolton Center Staff Joined Forces to Help Barbaro

BY SUSAN I. FINKELSTEIN AND GAIL LUCIANI
hey had always been a team; each department, each person had an integral part in the workings of New Bolton Center, the University of Pennsylvania’s 700 acres in rural Pennsylvania where some of the finest veterinary services available can be found. Doctors and nurses, admissions and housekeeping staff, telephone operators and mail clerks—all were part of an elegant, complex synergy of healing animals and helping people. Yes, they had always been a team, but they may not have realized it until Saturday, May 20—when a champion horse faltered before the eyes of millions of people. The horse was Kentucky Derby winner Barbaro, and his larger-than-life presence at the George D. Widener Hospital for Large Animals since then has connected all New Bolton’s players in not only caring for this horse loved round the world, but in keeping the Hospital at the top of its game.

Saturday Afternoon and Night

Soon after his shocking injury barely out of the gate at the Preakness Stakes, Barbaro was stabilized by track veterinarians (which included Dr. Scott Palmer, V’76, and Dr. Dan Dreyfuss, former surgical resident at New Bolton), and then rushed from the Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore to Widener’s Intensive Care Unit. Well-wishers had begun to gather at the Hospital, displaying signs—“Barbaro, we love you” and “Good luck, wonder horse”—hoping to catch a glimpse of their fallen hero. Reporters and broadcast vans came in droves in anticipation of the horse’s arrival.

Chief of Surgery Dr. Dean Richardson saw the misstep that ended Barbaro’s career at the Preakness on television, just after finishing a difficult surgery in Florida. Not only was he immediately in touch with Barbaro’s trainer and veterinarians, radiographs of the right hind leg were e-mailed to him within minutes. “I knew we weren’t going into surgery right away; we’ve learned that it’s best to give supportive care for 18–24 hours instead of immediately performing surgery,” said Dr. Richardson. “But after seeing those radiographs, I didn’t get a whole lot of sleep. I knew exactly what the fracture looked like and what was ahead of me.”

By 9:00 p.m., Barbaro’s ambulance, accompanied by a caravan of cars, including a police escort, pulled into New Bolton Center. Dr. Barbara Dallap, V’94, assistant professor of emergency medicine and critical care, was waiting to examine the colt. “The vets at the track did a wonderful job of stabilizing him,” she said. “He was able to walk into his stall in Intensive Care, where he remained for the night.”

Sunday Morning

News vans, microphones, cameras, satellite dishes, mobile broadcast towers—not exactly the type of equipment you would expect to see at a hospital for large animals, but just as familiar a sight outside Widener during those early days as horse vans, trailers and cattle trucks. Journalists from around the world had been at the Preakness on May 20, but immediately after the accident, many began the 82-mile journey to New Bolton Center to report on Barbaro’s condition and the doctors’ plans.

Saturday night into Sunday—and for days afterward—scores of reporters camped in their cars or vans on the Hospital grounds, waiting for news, emailing stories back to big-city or hometown newspapers, or broadcasting updates to television and radio stations. The previous evening at Pimlico, the scene had been “chaotic and borderline unruly,” according to Tim Layden, who writes the “Inside Horse Racing” column for SI.com. But Dr. Corinne Sweeney, Widener Hospital executive director and associate dean for New Bolton Center,
handled everything with a “quiet calm,” admired Layden, which was “transferred to very overtired journalists.” (The donuts and pizza, compliments of the Hospital, also may have helped fend off the fatigue.)

Dr. Richardson arrived at the Hospital by noon, having taken the earliest flight from Palm Beach, Fla. Initially, no plans were made to talk to the media before the surgery. But because the room had already filled to almost capacity, Drs. Richardson and Dallap spoke to the group for about 10 minutes to let them know their strategy for the day.

“When will you begin the surgery?” asked one reporter. “As soon as you stop asking me questions,” retorted Dr. Richardson. He left to see his famous patient, and the long wait began.

**Waiting for News**

The complex surgery to repair the three fractures in Barbaro’s right hind leg took five hours and required 27 pins and a stainless steel plate. “Barbaro presented with a case that was about as difficult as such an operation could be,” said Dr. Richardson. He had performed many similar surgeries, but this case was more complicated: Barbaro had suffered fractures to his cannon bone, sesamoids and long pastern, and he also suffered a dislocation of the fetlock joint. The long pastern was broken into more than 20 pieces. Assisting in the complex procedure were Dr. Bernd Driessen, associate professor of anesthesia, and residents Drs. Liberty Getman, Steve Zedler and David Levine.

The operating room at the George D. Widener Hospital is equipped with a monorail that runs to the recovery pool. The pool-recovery system allows a disoriented animal to waken suspended in a specially engineered harness and rubber raft, allowing him to gallop or flail in the warm water until fully conscious, significantly reducing the risk of re-injuring the damaged limb. Once awake, he is hoisted from the raft and moved to the recovery stall where he can stand at once. When Barbaro’s surgery was completed, he had the first of several successful recoveries in this specially designed pool—a photo of the event taken that evening appeared on the front page of every major U.S. newspaper the next day, and was featured as a two-page spread in *Sports Illustrated* the following week.

The colt “practically jogged back to his stall” in the ICU with the new cast on his hind leg, according to Dr. Richardson. Once the patient was safely in his stall, Dr. Richardson, joined by trainer Michael Matz, met with a standing-room-only crowd of journalists in the Woerner Amphitheatre to discuss the surgery and answer questions. (For progressive updates on Barbaro’s condition, please see [www.vet.upenn.edu](http://www.vet.upenn.edu).)

**Slow and Steady Healing**

In the following days, Barbaro’s right hind leg slowly healed. He had special visitors—his owners Gretchen, CW’59, and Roy, C’61, Jackson came almost daily, as would his trainer, Michael Matz. Jockey Edgar Prado came, followed by Penn president Amy Gutmann and Pennsylvania governor Ed Rendell. Press conferences practically became the norm—but life at New Bolton carried on.

“At the Widener Hospital on the day of one of our press conferences, beyond the buzz of activity and media

May 27: Fitted with a special three-part, glue-on horseshoe for left hind hoof to reduce risk of laminitis.

May 30: Jockey Edgar Prado visits; Richardson says recovery still months away.

June 10: Stood in stall as Jazil won Belmont Stakes.
trucks in the parking lot, I saw barn workers cleaning, nurses and students caring for patients, and a surprised-looking sheep in a wheelbarrow being returned to its stall,” said Dr. Joan Hendricks, the Gilbert S. Kahn Dean of Veterinary Medicine. “If one scene spoke most about the professionalism of NBC’s staff, faculty, students and administration, it was this one: in the face of sudden and unprecedented media attention and all the attendant disruptions and stress, patient care was the main focus. This is exactly how it should be, and I hope everyone realizes how much their work is appreciated.”

Other Patients

Barbaro was not alone in the ICU. “We have a lot of other patients here too, and they get the same level of care that Barbaro gets—without the media attention. Everybody here is working hard,” said Dr. Richardson. For the nursing staff, the pressure was just as intense, as they cared for patients that included a lame alpaca, a foal stepped on by its mother, and mares with difficult deliveries. “Our ICU nurses and nursing assistants have been challenged by the attention that comes along with having a ‘celebrity’ patient,” said Rosemarie Richardson, New Bolton’s director of nursing. “But they have also enjoyed seeing a focus on the important work we do here every day. A lot of people can better understand our role now.”

A Generous Donor and a Message Board of His Own

At this time, an anonymous donor gave a very generous gift to launch the Barbaro Fund, donations of which go directly to support the work of New Bolton Center, not for Barbaro’s care. “It’s wonderful that we can create something so very good out of Barbaro’s tragedy and help celebrate animal athletes,” said Gretchen Jackson, Barbaro’s owner and a member of the School’s Board of Overseers. “This fund in Barbaro’s name will honor him and provide a lasting resource to help care for other animals treated at New Bolton Center.” (Donors can find out how to offer monetary gifts at www.vet.upenn.edu/giving/giving_ways.html.)

Barbaro also has a message board set up in his name for the thousands—more than 50,000 as of early August—of well-wishes sent to him electronically. The School’s Web site (www.vet.upenn.edu) had a fourfold increase in hits—some days, especially those with press conferences, reaching as high as 177,000, compared to daily pre-Barbaro numbers of 500 to 1,000. Visitors can check updates on Barbaro’s condition and photos posted for the media, as well as explore other sections of the site to learn more about the School providing Barbaro’s treatment.

Laminitis Strikes

While hopes were high that the three-year-old colt would heal from the massive injury to his right hind leg, one of the biggest threats to his survival was laminitis; at an emotional news conference on July 13, Dr. Richardson announced that Barbaro had indeed succumbed to the little-understood inflammation in his left hind foot. Laminitis is a painful condition in horses that can have any of a number of causes, including excessive weight bearing in one limb. It occurs when laminae, the strong connecting tissues that attach the pedal bone and the inner hoof wall, are inflamed.

“While his condition is stable, it remains extremely serious,” said Dr. Richardson, as he explained the implications.
of the condition at the press conference. Barbaro was being monitored very closely because signs can change quickly. Dr. Richardson later added, “It’s important to remember that Barbaro’s treatment could easily continue for many weeks, and if all goes well, several months. Our goal is to keep him as comfortable as possible, and clearly that comfort level will be a major indicator for our treatment decisions.”

Doctors commented on Barbaro’s intelligence; his quick understanding of what was required of him in the healing process, from relaxing in his sling so as to reduce weight on his feet, to cooperating in the recovery pool after cast changes. “He has a very positive attitude,” said Dr. Richardson. “If you look at this horse, it would be very hard to put him down.”

And so the work and the waiting continue.

The Gift Horse

In the months that have passed, thousands of fans from around the world have sent cards and posters, baskets of carrots and apples and sweets, bouquets of roses, letters and e-mail messages to Barbaro and to those who have been caring for him. And Barbaro is not greedy; of the thousands of treats sent to him, he enjoys what he can, and shares the rest with other equine patients.

Among the people signing for the profusion of gifts has been Kathy Freeborn, in Patient Admissions. Each day, florists’ trucks bring literally dozens of packages to the Hospital’s front-desk area, where Kathy works. “Barbaro has touched the hearts of people all over the world. It’s good to know there is so much love in the world, and that people take the time to show they care,” Kathy said.

Neither Rain nor Snow...

And then there are well-wishers who choose to mail their presents, letters and cards; whether via the U.S. Post Office or express mail services, the New Bolton mailroom has seen more activity than ever before. Mail clerk Nick Raimato has been kept busy receiving, sorting and delivering the influx to the proper places—namely to Barbaro and his caretakers. Since Barbaro’s arrival in May, the steady wave of packages and paper has hardly subsided at all. “I’ve been amazed at the public’s continuing interest in Barbaro and his well-being,” Nick admitted. “Many of the cards and parcels from the Post Office have been sent as certified return receipt, insured and registered—I’m waiting to see if we will get one ‘restricted delivery,’ requiring Barbaro’s signature for release.”
Hospital director Dr. Sweeney also has been touched by many of the letters and cards that have come into the Center, some addressed to Barbaro, some to New Bolton staff. “The letters sent to Barbaro—some, of course, are ‘Get Well,’ ‘Go Barbaro,’ ‘We love you’—but some people have shared their own personal tragedies and successes,” she recalled. “Dear Barbaro, I too have had major injuries or multiple fractures, but you can persevere, you can endure. These are the messages that America wants to share with us; very few of them have been anything but inspiring.”

Perhaps the most poignant messages to Barbaro are from children, and Dr. Sweeney has a pile of kids’ homemade cards, words and horses colored in crayon, many bedecked with glitter. “With some of the children’s cards, you can see that the teacher has prompted them to think of a topic relating to Barbaro. I smile because you can see the teacher was using this as a writing exercise and suggests they write a salutation, and they all do,” Dr. Sweeney laughed. “One little boy wrote, ‘Dear Barbaro, Well, I guess you’re not reading this since you’re a horse.’ And then, ‘Dear Barbaro, I’m not even sure if you speak English.’ That was a pretty good one.”

“The World Was Calling”

In the hours and days after Barbaro’s accident, countless well-wishers and media types from all over the globe were part of the unprecedented number of information-seekers, especially remarkable for those working and living in the usually bucolic Kennett Square. The main method of early contact was by telephone, and the sound of ringing in the Hospital offices was constant. “The phones ring an awful lot anyway; they were ringing almost nonstop before Barbaro,” Dr. Sweeney recalled. “But then if you can imagine that night, and those next days, the world was calling. We had one number, and they called. They weren’t here, they weren’t sending emails, they weren’t sending get-well cards—they were calling. The switchboard was inundated.”

“It’s human nature to want things to go well. For Barbaro, it’s upsetting to everybody that he didn’t have the chance to live up to his potential. He’s very personable and he has a lot of charisma,” Dr. Richardson explained. “Goodwill from people around the world has been tremendous; I haven’t been able to answer my office phone in three months. This is real, genuine goodwill. A lot of people are caught up in the story of this horse, and that adds a lot of pressure.”

Diane Combs was one of the operators fielding calls at New Bolton. “After the last press conference, two voice-mail boxes were set up just for calls concerning Barbaro, since the switchboard and the surgery secretaries were unable to keep up with the volume of calls. Many concerned callers simply want to know how he’s doing or send their well-wishes or prayers, while others have advice to offer and some have products they feel might be beneficial to Barbaro’s recovery. Some callers are quite emotional. It is truly amazing the love and concern shown for Barbaro.”

The added stress and inconvenience of almost constant media attention since May 20 has only strengthened the spirit of teamwork at New Bolton Center. Doctors and nurses, admissions and housekeeping staff, telephone operators and mail clerks—all will continue to do their jobs, as a team, healing animals and helping people.
Since May 20, New Bolton faculty and staff have had close encounters with media of all types looking for angles on their own particular Barbaro story. Below are tidbits from their experiences, as well as some interesting “Barbaro by the numbers” stats.

**Defining moment:** Quote from Mike Gathagan, vice president of communications for the Maryland Jockey Club, 8:00 p.m., Saturday, May 20, to Gail Luciani, Penn Vet director of communication: “We had 1,600 credentialed members of the press at Pimlico today. And they’re headed your way.”

**How reporters were kept occupied during Barbaro’s five-hour surgery:** Two tours of the Scott Building; two treadmill demonstrations with Dr. Eric Birks, assistant professor of exercise physiology; stacks of Bellwethers and 20 pizzas.

**One picture is worth a thousand words:** Freelancer Sabina Pierce was called in as the pool photographer, i.e., one who shoots for all media outlets and then shares the photos. Using an in-house pool photographer also meant we could control distribution and maintain ownership of the photos. The photo of Barbaro being lifted from the recovery pool was printed on the front page of every major newspaper in the country on Monday, May 22. It was also featured as a two-page spread in *Sports Illustrated* the following week. Other high-resolution photos were put on Penn Vet’s Web site for the media’s use.

**Good Morning, Sunshine:** Dr. Richardson did interviews with the Today Show, Good Morning America, the CBS Early Show as well as CNN American Morning. Local media congregated in front of the Widener Hospital, and Dr. Richardson answered questions in time for their noon live updates from New Bolton. Reporters from evening news shows arrived later.

**Number of requests for interviews:** More than 500

**Number of interviews given:** More than 275

**Number of press conferences:** 5

**Coverage:** In the first two weeks, local and national television news covered Barbaro and New Bolton Center extensively. Penn Vet appeared on numerous broadcast outlets including ABC, NBC, CBS, CNN, ESPN and, locally, WPVI-TV, WCAU-TV, Fox 29 and KYW-TV. Film was syndicated to television stations around the country. Radio coverage includes NPR, WHYY and many small and syndicated stations from across the U.S.

New Bolton was mentioned as the “best possible” place for Barbaro in an Associated Press article that appeared in newspapers across the country and around the world.

**Dr. Dean Richardson** was profiled on the front page of the Sunday edition of the Philadelphia Inquirer, and jockey Edgar Prado’s visit that week was also covered. *Time* and *Newsweek* ran photos and in addition to Dr. Richardson, Dr. Corinne Sweeney, Dr. David Nunamaker, V’68, Dr. Liberty Getman, Dr. David Levine and farrier Rob Sigafoos were quoted in various broadcast media.
outlets and in news articles by the Associated Press, Reuters, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Los Angeles Times, Forbes, the Baltimore Sun, the International Herald Tribune, USA Today and numerous other newspapers.

Number of photos posted on the Penn Vet Web site: 52

Number of updates posted on the Penn Vet Web site: 43, including additional information on farriers, equine reproduction, the recovery pool and FAQs.

Most original gift to Barbaro: $500 for upkeep of the recovery pool from the University of Notre Dame swim team.

Web site: 25,000 to 30,000 visitors came to our Web site daily through the week of May 22. Pre-Barbaro, the Penn Vet web site had 500 to 1,000 visitors a day.

Message board: “We haven’t put a keyboard in Barbaro’s stall yet,” joked Dr. Dean Richardson. But Barbaro has his own message board—in time, more than 50,000 entries would be posted from fans and well wishers; these were in addition to the hundreds of e-mails sent to just about every e-mail address posted on Penn Vet’s Web site.

Best partner: Thanks to the support of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association, press conferences were open to media across the country via teleconference, and press conference transcripts were available on-line.

Most unexpected media requests: From Geraldo Rivera and Inside Edition.

Penn Vet’s Emergency Communication Team: Elana Beck Arons, Karen Coghlan, John Donges, Susan Finkelstein, Coreen Haggerty, Pat Hall, Peter Ivanick, Kate Judge, Greg Lester, Gail Luciani, Ken McCordle, Dori Myers, Jennifer Rench, Jane Simone, Andrea Withers and Jennifer Worden.

Memorable quote: Jockey Edgar Prado, visiting Barbaro for the first time since the accident, says, “If tears could heal Barbaro, he would be healed by now.”

Biggest challenge: Getting reporters to say “the University of Pennsylvania” instead of “a vet clinic in Chester County”—bonus points for those who also said the “School of Veterinary Medicine.”

Most appreciated advice: From Greg Lester, University Communications, Wednesday, May 24, to Gail Luciani, when, after four days, the demand for media interviews hadn’t let up: “Tell them no more for today.”

The future: Nightline is working on a half-hour feature about Barbaro and New Bolton that should air in the fall.

Award: Dr. Dean Richardson and New Bolton will receive the Joe Palmer Award, presented annually for meritorious service to racing, from the National Turf Writers Association on Nov. 1.

Photos by Sabina Louise Pierce and Jennifer Rench
What part of the body did Barbaro’s bone graft come from?
The bone graft came from the tuber coxae (a bony prominence of the pelvis often called the point of the hip) and consisted of cancellous (spongy) bone.
—Dr. David Levine, surgery resident

I understand it’s a major challenge for a horse to be stall-bound for four months or more. Do you have a defined program of stimulation/intervention to prevent depression?
No, but it is important to try to keep the horse comfortable and happy, and the horse’s personality and attitude also play a large role in this.
—Dr. Evita Busschers, surgery resident

Describe the feeding program that is now in place for Barbaro. How has it changed from his feeding regiment before the accident? What has happened to body weight and body condition score?
Before he was hospitalized, Barbaro was being fed three times a day. His morning ration was two pounds of a high-protein sweet feed with corn oil. His afternoon ration was two pounds of oats and four pounds of sweet feed with corn oil. His late evening ration was, again, two pounds of oats and four pounds of sweet feed with corn oil and a scoop of fat supplement. He is currently getting two pounds of his owners’ sweet feed with corn oil three times a day with a scoop of fat supplement in his morning grain. We have increased him to four feedings a day. While he has maintained his weight during his hospitalization, he has lost some body condition, mostly muscle. This of course is not unexpected as Barbaro went from ‘working out daily’ on the racetrack to spending his days standing in a stall.
—Kasey McCafferty, CVT, ICU/NICU charge nurse

As a former student at NBC, I would love to know the role students are playing in Barbaro’s care and recovery.
Barbaro was like any other patient a student has on a surgery rotation, but just with a little more press. As the student assigned to his care, every morning I would give him a thorough physical exam followed by any treatments he was due for at that time. He is surprisingly very easy to work with and has a very spirited personality. Surely, he may be one of the most famous patients I may ever have the opportunity to work with.
—Taryn Gassert, fourth-year vet student

What anesthetic/analgesic protocol was used for the surgery? What analgesics were used immediately post-operative and over the subsequent days? What is the anticipated schedule for physical rehabilitation for Barbaro, and what activities would be included (i.e., underwater treadmill, therapeutic ultrasound, etc.)?
The premedication used was as follows: acepromazine, butorphanol and medetomidine. The anesthetic administered was guaifensin, diazepam, ketamine, sevo + O2, plus medetomidine – CRI. The regional analgesia was epidural morphine, also for three days post-op. Insofar as physical rehab, it is not appropriate if the horse has casted legs.
—Dr. Bernd Driessen, associate professor of anesthesia

Why did the fracture occur?
I still believe from what I saw that it was a catastrophic misstep at high speed and with the limb intensely loaded.
—Dr. Dean Richardson, chief of surgery

What medications is the horse being given on a routine basis? What is the prognosis in terms of the multiple fractures healing without affecting tendons?
Antibiotics are being administered to Barbaro at this time, as well as NSAIDs (phenylbutazone), anti-ulcer medications (omeprazole) and other analgesics as needed, including epidural drugs.

There is minimal concern about involvement of his tendons. In a horse, the only functions of the tendons are support and locomotion. Effects on ‘fine’ movements of the digit are major concerns in humans with distal limb injuries, but not really an issue in a horse with this type of an injury.
—Dr. Dean Richardson, chief of surgery
I would be interested to know how/why the horse was brought to Penn. Did the owners or attending veterinarian have a previous relationship with Penn Vet?

Barbaro already had many connections to New Bolton Center prior to the Preakness. Barbaro’s attending veterinarian at the Fair Hill Training Center, Dr. Kathy Anderson, frequently referred her patients to Dr. Richardson at New Bolton. Barbaro’s owners, Roy and Gretchen Jackson, live four miles from New Bolton and have been longtime clients of the Hospital. Additionally, Gretchen Jackson, CW’59, is on the Board of Overseers of the School. These and other factors probably entered into the Jacksons’ decision as to where Barbaro would be transported following his traumatic injury at the Preakness.

—Dr. Corinne Sweeney, associate dean, Widener Hospital executive director

How is the vascular integrity of the distal limb assessed prior to or at the time of surgery? Is angiography the standard of care yet in equines?

The vascular integrity of the distal limb is readily assessed at surgery because the blood supply is easily characterized. Angiography probably should not be done in a horse with a warm foot and good pulses; it would be overly invasive and highly unlikely to be of value. If questions about the vascularity arose, contrast arteriography can readily be done. We routinely use venograms (‘reverse-flow’ contrast studies done distal to a tourniquet) to evaluate blood flow to the lamina of the foot. This is not relevant to Barbaro’s acute injury to the fetlock and pastern, however.

—Dr. Dean Richardson, chief of surgery

What is the greatest number of pieces in a comminuted fracture Dean Richardson has ever repaired? (In other words, is this one of the most fragmented he has ever dealt with?)

Not even close. We have repaired many fractures that are the equivalent of crushed ice but most frequently we can use external skeletal fixation to manage such injuries. In Barbaro’s case, that was not an option because of the long condylar fracture of his cannon bone. We also have treated several foals and a few adults with pretty severely comminuted long bone fractures using the strongest double-plating techniques combined with bone grafts. Barbaro’s fracture was unusually complex because of the extreme instability of the fetlock, the severity of the comminution of P1 and the presence of the condylar fracture (plus his size).

—Dr. Dean Richardson, chief of surgery

What do you feel is the greatest aid to rehabilitation?

I think one of the greatest aids for rehabilitation is the horse’s personality and his attitude. Horses that know how to take care of themselves definitely have a great advantage in their rehabilitation process.

—Dr. Evita Busschers, surgery resident

What part did the availability and use of the pool recovery system have in his care, survival and results?

New Bolton’s unique pool and raft recovery system have played a vital role in Barbaro’s case. Because of their natural flight instinct, horses often attempt to stand very early during recovery from general anesthesia, before they regain full muscle strength and coordination. These uncoordinated efforts can lead to disruption of the repair or additional damage to the injured leg. The pool provides a controlled recovery from anesthesia. Patients can move their legs while regaining consciousness without the danger of injury. Recovering horses remain in the pool until all the effects of the anesthetics have worn off and then are lifted from the pool and lowered directly into the standing position. Barbaro was recovered in the pool after the initial surgery and all subsequent procedures that involved general anesthesia, and stood successfully each time with no adverse effects to his injured leg.

—Dr. Kim Olson, staff vet, critical care and anesthesia
**Ralph Brinster to Receive Gairdner Foundation International Award**

**Dr. Ralph L. Brinster, V'60**, the Richard King Mellon Professor of Reproductive Physiology, will be awarded the Gairdner Foundation International Award on October 26, 2006 in Toronto. Dr. Brinster is receiving the award for his “pioneering discoveries in germ line modification in mammals.”

First awarded in 1959, the Gairdners are among the most prestigious international awards in medical research, recognizing outstanding contributions by medical scientists whose work will significantly improve the quality of life. Among the 279 Gairdner winners during the past 46 years, 65 have gone on to win the Nobel Prize.

Dr. Brinster's research career is noted for many achievements in the field of reproduction, genetics and stem cell biology. In particular, Brinster has been a leader in the biology of germ cells. Early in his career, he established techniques to grow and manipulate eggs, and later used these methods to generate genetic changes in mice and other animals. More recently, Dr. Brinster has created a technique of altering genes in spermatagonial stem cells.

“Ralph Brinster is truly a trailblazer in the field of gene modification in animals,” said Dr. Joan Hendricks, V’79, GR’80, dean of the School.” His early findings helped usher in the era of transgenic research and its many medical and scientific benefits, while his current work is at the forefront of stem cell medicine.”

Dr. Brinster is the sixth Penn faculty member—and the first from the School of Veterinary Medicine—to win a Gairdner, a list that includes Clay Armstrong (2001), Baruch S. Blumberg (1975), Britton Chance (1972), Daniel J. McCarty (1965) and John H. Gibbon (1960), all from the School of Medicine.

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**“Bubble Bassets” Cured of Genetic Disorder**

Researchers from Penn Vet have found a way to cure basset hound puppies of a deadly immune disorder, a victory that could eventually change the way the disease is treated in humans.

The disease, X-linked severe combined immunodeficiency, or XSCID, first received public attention with “Bubble Boy” David Vetter, a victim who could survive only in an isolated, germ-free environment. Today, the disease affects one in every 100,000 boys and often proves fatal before the age of one year.

Although XSCID has been treated in the past through a gene therapy technique in which bone marrow is taken out of a patient, treated with the corrective gene, then placed back in the body, the Vet School team used a different approach, injecting the corrective gene directly into the bloodstream of the pups.

“Although ex-vivo gene therapy has been shown to be capable of restoring normal immune function in XSCID boys, there are several potential problems with this approach,” said Dr. Peter J. Felsburg, V’69, professor of immunology, who led the team that included researchers from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease. “The number of gene-corrected bone-marrow stem cells that can be transplanted back into the patient is limited to correcting the potentially low number of bone-marrow stem cells harvested from the patient. In addition, the manipulation and culturing of the cells outside the body may alter their ability to provide for long-term generation of new immune cells.”

This procedure, the team says, could prove to be both a more effective and more efficient treatment of the disease in years to come.

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**By Air—and Water**

A recent discovery of five fossils in northwestern China provides an important link between ancient and modern birds. The fossils indicate that early birds probably evolved...
in a watery environment and were similar to modern-day ducks or loons. The bone structure and webbed feet of the specimens—called *Gansus yumenensis* for the province in which they were found—indicate that they swam and took flight from the water. Though no skulls were found, it seems likely that that these duck-like early birds ate fish, insects and the occasional plant.

“*Gansus* is very close to a modern bird and helps fill in the big gap between clearly non-modern birds and the explosion of early birds that marked the Cretaceous period, the final era of the Dinosaur Age,” said Dr. Peter Dodson, professor of anatomy, who discovered the fossils with three former students.

### A Jekyll-and-Hyde of Cytokines:
**IL-25 Promotes and Limits Inflammatory Diseases**

The same signal responsible for promoting the type of immune responses that cause asthma and allergy can also limit the type of inflammation associated with debilitating diseases like inflammatory bowel disease, arthritis and multiple sclerosis, according to Penn Vet researchers. The team discovered how IL-25, a signaling protein known as a cytokine, prevents destructive inflammation and promotes immune responses associated with asthma and allergic responses.

The findings, which appear in the April 2006 *Journal of Experimental Medicine*, suggest that manipulating IL-25 could provide a method to treat a wide variety of chronic inflammatory diseases.

“It appears that IL-25 has a Jekyll-and-Hyde personality: it can be helpful or harmful depending on how it interacts with T helper cells, a subset of immune cells that influences inflammatory responses,” said Dr. David Artis, assistant professor of parasitology and senior author of the study. “These studies show that IL-25 promotes type-2 T helper cells that drive the type of response required for eradicating worm infections and causing asthma. Importantly, IL-25 can simultaneously limit destructive inflammation caused by inflammatory T helper cells commonly found in diseases like inflammatory bowel disease, arthritis and MS.”

These results also support the notion that the immune response that causes allergies and asthma is an evolutionary hangover resulting from mankind’s historical fight with parasitic worm infections. That is, a type-2 response once useful in fighting worm infections has now become a dangerous menace, causing inflammatory responses to commonly encountered environmental antigens. About 30 percent of Americans suffer from the negative effects of type-2 inflammation: asthma and allergies, which result from an inflammatory response to factors encountered in the environment, whether industrial air pollutants or peanut-oil molecules.

Funding was provided by the National Institutes of Health, the Crohns and Colitis Foundation of America’s William Shelby Modell Family Foundation Research Award, the Irvington Institute for Immunological Research Postdoctoral Fellowship and Schering-Plough Biopharma.

### New Treatment at Ryan Veterinary Hospital for Feline Saddle Thrombus

In July 2006, the Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital Emergency Service, in tandem with Ryan’s Interventional Radiology Service, began offering rheolytic thrombectomy for the treatment of certain blood clots encountered in veterinary patients. The AngioJet Thrombectomy Device historically has been used to remove blood clots in humans. Recently, rheolytic thrombectomy was described for the treatment of feline distal aortic thromboembolism, with encouraging initial results. This procedure involves placement of a specialized catheter through the carotid artery and into the saddle thrombus using fluoroscopic guidance. Once in place, the thrombus is fragmented and evacuated, restoring perfusion to the limbs.

Saddle thrombi secondary to heart disease in our feline patients is a frustrating disease historically associated with extreme patient discomfort and a grave prognosis. The researchers’ current study will focus on aggressive, rapid removal of these thrombi as soon as possible with concurrent management of the underlying cardiac disease and anticipated reperfusion injury to maximize outcome in these patients. These techniques can be used in dogs with certain thromboembolic manifestations as well.
Researchers Find Role for MicroRNAs in Oxygenation, Nourishing of Colon Tumors

Researchers at Penn Vet have identified how molecules of microRNA are responsible for the growth of blood vessels in a model for human colon cancer. The process, called angiogenesis, results in the ability of ravenous cancer cells to recruit blood vessels and receive a steady supply of nutrients and oxygen.

The findings, which appear in the on-line version of Nature Genetics, suggest these microRNAs might also be a good target for future therapeutics to slow the growth of cancer cells.

“These findings also uncover a new role for a well-known cancer-causing gene called MYC,” said Dr. Andrei Thomas-Tikhonenko, associate professor of pathobiology. “We have discovered that, within a tumor cell, one of the tasks of MYC is to turn loose a particular set of microRNAs, which then becomes responsible for promoting the growth of new blood vessels that nourish the tumor.”

The researchers discovered the role of microRNAs in angiogenesis while studying what makes MYC unique among other cancer-causing genes. In particular, they were curious why cells with hyperactive MYC do not accumulate particularly fast in Petri dishes yet grow explosively in animal models for the disease.

The MYC protein is known to have a role in determining how certain genes are transcribed into messenger RNAs. To understand the role of MYC in angiogenesis, the researchers used microarray technology to screen MYC-positive and -negative cancerous cells for the presence or absence of 192 known pro- and anti-angiogenesis molecules. They found that, while MYC did not lead to excessive amounts of pro-angiogenesis molecules, it did seem to depopulate an entire family of anti-angiogenesis molecules related to the thrombospondin-1 protein. MYC effectively disabled the brakes that slow angiogenesis.

Also participating in this study were Asal Homayouni, Duonan Yu and Cinzia Sevignani from the School of Veterinary Medicine; Greg H. Enders, Emma E. Furth, William M. Lee and Danielle Murphy from Penn’s School of Medicine; and Erik Wentzel from Johns Hopkins University. Funding for this research was provided by the National Institutes of Health and a grant from the University of Pennsylvania Research Foundation.
Staff Deaths

Dr. William Medway, former professor of clinical laboratory medicine at the School, passed away March 19, 2006. Dr. Medway received his D.V.M. from Ontario Veterinary College in 1954 and his Ph.D. in veterinary physiology from Cornell in 1958. He came to Penn as an associate professor that same year, and retired in October 1988. He conducted a number of studies on diseases of marine mammals, anemias in dogs and cats, malabsorption in Siamese cats and urinary mucopolysaccharides in dogs.

Dr. Adelaide M. Delluva passed away on Wednesday, May 31, 2006, in her home in Philadelphia, Pa. Dr. Delluva came to Penn in 1940 as a graduate student, and became an instructor and assistant professor of biochemistry at Penn’s Medical School after graduation. In 1969 she came to Penn Vet as an assistant professor of biochemistry in the Department of Animal Biology. She served the department and School in many capacities, including acting chair of the Department of Animal Biology, head of the Biochemistry section and associate dean of student affairs. For more than 37 years, Dr. Delluva made incredible contributions to the teaching of biochemistry and student life at the Vet School. She also actively participated in University-wide committees and programs on minority and women’s rights issues.

Dr. Wayne Riser passed away Monday, June 26, 2006. Dr. Riser contributed greatly to Penn Vet and to veterinary medicine, and he laid the groundwork for the extraordinary advances in veterinary pathology and orthopedics continuously taking place here.

Dr. Riser’s legacy at Penn has many aspects, but one of the most enduring is his tenure as the founder and first program director of the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals, which became known worldwide. In addition to being a professor in pathology, Dr. Riser is credited with introducing sterile surgery techniques as a regular practice in veterinary medicine. As founder of the World’s Small Animal Association and a charter member and president of the American College of Veterinary Pathology, he contributed in untold ways to helping improve the quality and length of life for animals all over the world. Even after he retired with emeritus status from Penn in 1979, his passion for science drove him to volunteer his time at the University of Florida researching hip and other bone and joint diseases associated with certain canine breeds.

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• The environment

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- For questions, vphconf@vet.upenn.edu or call 610-925-6345

Hotel Accommodations
To receive the discounted room rate, mention you are with the Veterinary Public Health Conference.
- The Inn at Penn, 3600 Sansom Street, Philadelphia. $199 per night, plus tax. Call 215-222-0200 or 1-800-HILTONS.
- Sheraton University City, 36th and Chestnut Street, Philadelphia. $179 per night, plus tax. Call 1-877-459-1146
- Penn Tower Hotel, 34th Street and Civic Center Boulevard, Philadelphia. $125 per night, plus tax. Call 215-387-8333.

Invited speakers include:
- Gregg BeVier, AgGlobalVision
- Corrie Brown, University of Georgia
- Ilaria Capua, Veterinary Public Health Inst. Padova
- Darin Carroll, CDC
- Bruno Chomel, UCD
- Cees de Hahn, World Bank
- Sandra Cointreau, World Bank
- David Harlan, Cargill
- Robert Horner, IFC
- Candace Jacobs, HEB Foods
- Stephen Kobrin, Wharton School
- Richard Langan, UNH
- Pedro Lichtinger, Int. Fed. Of Animal Health Companies
- Vincent Martin, FAO
- Hugh Mainzer, CDC
- Matthew Meselson, Harvard Univ.
- Francois Meslin, WHO
- Shelley Rankin, UPenn
- Chuck Rupprecht, CDC
- Henning Steinfeld, FAO
- Paul Thompson, MSU
- Peter Walsh, Max Planck Inst.
- Linfa Wang, Australia Animal Health Lab
- Doyle Waybright, Mason Dixon Farms

www.vet.upenn.edu
1960 – In April, Dr. Ralph Brinster, the Richard King Mellon Professor of Reproductive Physiology, was selected to receive the Gairdner Foundation’s International Award. Dr. Brinster will be given the award in October for his “pioneering discoveries in germ line modification in mammals.”

1964 – Dr. Richard Weitzman and his wife, Shelly, were selected by American Friends of the Hebrew University to receive the Ba’alei Haim (Keepers of Life) Award for their many contributions to the care of companion animals in the Washington, D.C., area and to the field of veterinary medicine. Dr. Weitzman established the Metropolitan Emergency Animal Clinic in Rockville, Md. He practices at his small animal clinic in Potomac, Md., and his wife manages the business.


1978 – Dr. Anna E. Worth was elected vice president of the American Animal Hospital Association at the association’s annual conference in Long Beach, Calif., in March 2006. Dr. Worth chairs the AAHA Foundation Board of Trustees, which administers the AAHA Helping Pets Fund, helping those in need access quality veterinary care for their sick or injured pets. She also serves as the AAHA Leadership Council Board Liaison and previously served as an AAHA representative and president of the National Council for Pet Population Study and Policy.

1984 – The Healthy Paws Veterinary Center in Little Elm, Tx., owned by Dr. Gary A. Raiczyk, has received accreditation following a comprehensive evaluation by the American Animal Hospital Association. The evaluation includes a quality assessment review of the hospital’s facility, medical equipment, practice methods and pet health care management. Only 12% of U.S. small animal veterinary practices have achieved AAHA accreditation by the American Animal Hospital Association.

1988 – Dr. Lisa Forrest, associate professor in the University of Wisconsin–Madison School of Veterinary Medicine’s Department of Surgical Sciences, received the Carl Norden-Pfizer Distinguished Teacher Award during the School’s annual Awards Celebration in April 2006. She was selected based on nominations from the four classes of veterinary students and departments in the school based on strength of character, leadership and teaching ability.

1990 – Dr. Susan J. Holcombe, associate professor of large-animal sciences at Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine, was named an honorary alumnus of the college. She was cited for her research achievements, which have added to the understanding of upper airway disease in horses, for her contributions to the college’s emergency service as an emergency surgeon and for her dedication to the training of residents.


1997 – Dr. Sherif Lawendy married Stephanie Ellassal on November 6, 2005. Dr. Lawendy is the owner of Park Animal Hospital in Norwalk, Conn.

2004 – On June 17, 2006, Dr. Amy E. Poulin married Anthony J. Braim, a physical therapist from Philadelphia. The couple now resides in California, where Amy is completing an equine surgical residency at the UC–Davis Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital.


1945 – Patrick B. Coleman on August 8, 2005.


Alumni Connections

Are you familiar with Penn’s On-Line Alumni Community? It provides a free service to all Penn graduates that allows you to find a former classmate, sign up for an email forwarding service and update your alumni record.

As we reactivate the class agent program, you can register and update your contact information by visiting www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/UPN. Once registered, you can search the On-Line Directory networking and an easy way to keep up-to-date on fellow alums. The permanent email forwarding service will forward messages received at your permanent Penn e-mail address to the one of your choice.

Another way to reconnect with Penn Vet and classmates:

Take advantage of the Penn Vet Alumni Society’s new electronic communications system, a listserv, by which you can keep in touch with your classmates. The listserv is free and your privacy is ensured. Take advantage of this service by sending your preferred e-mail address to haggertc@vet.upenn.edu, or call 215-898-1481 for details.

Alumni Relations
Director Named

Coreen Haggerty, Penn Vet’s special events coordinator since July 2005, has been appointed the School’s new director of alumni relations. Prior to Penn, Coreen directed the only nationally accredited continuing medical education program for physicians in Delaware. There she also managed several volunteer committees related to environmental and public health, aging, school health and education and served on several state and national initiatives including the Healthy Delaware 2010 Steering & Development Committees, Attorney General’s Task Force on Animal Cruelty and Violence and Governor’s Council on Cancer Incidence and Mortality.

Coreen has served on the boards of Delaware’s animal shelters and advocacy groups, but her combined affinity for medicine and animal care blossomed through her work in client support at a Delaware veterinary emergency center. She spends much of her free time fostering and transporting rescued American Eskimo dogs for a national breed rescue group.

Thank you!

Barbaro and the entire New Bolton Center community extend warmest thanks to all our friends who have sent donations, flowers and fruit—and who have kept us in their hearts and minds—during the past months.

Your generosity has meant so much to us.

For information about the Barbaro Fund, visit www.vet.upenn.edu/giving/giving_ways.html.
As I begin my second year as your Veterinary Medical Alumni Society president, I am excited about Penn Vet's positive advancements and forward movement. We have much to be proud of as we embark on a time when the School is expanding into exciting new spaces and initiatives on campus.

I am also delighted to announce the appointment of Coreen Haggerty as your new director of alumni relations. Formerly special events coordinator for the School, Coreen brings experience in volunteer cultivation, board development and continuing education to her new role, as well as much enthusiasm in the support of veterinary medicine. I want to personally thank Dori Myers, major gifts officer for the School, who has graciously served with patience and skill as an interim alumni officer. By separating the annual giving function from the Alumni Relations position, we can look forward to a robust alumni program with new opportunities for us to have meaningful input with the School and Penn. A strategic plan is currently being discussed, and I look forward to your ideas in the coming months.

If you have not already registered, I encourage you to sign up for our Alumni Weekend on October 6 and 7 at the Philadelphia campus! We have much to highlight and as alumni, we will be treated to a first look at the new Vernon and Shirley Hill Pavilion. The building is scheduled to open in December 2006, and our Alumni Weekend is its kick-off event.

Please join me on Friday evening, October 6, at the Inn at Penn for the first Alumni Weekend reception and dinner with Dr. Joan Hendricks, V’79, GR’80, at her first Alumni Weekend as the Gilbert S. Kahn Dean of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. R. O. Davies, professor of physiology, will discuss the construction of the Hill Pavilion, the first building first building on the Philadelphia campus since the 1980s. I also invite you to bring your families to our alumni picnic on Saturday, October 7. Many events are scheduled for kids, and you will be offered the first official tour of the Hill Pavilion by faculty and students.

If you are not able to join us in October, please stay connected with your classmates through the Alumni Society’s free electronic communications system. By logging onto this secure on-line community, you will be immediately connected to your entire class. To sign up, contact Coreen Haggerty at haggertc@vet.upenn.edu or 215-898-1481. If you are already a member, type vmdclassofXXXX@lists.vet.upenn.edu (simply replace the Xs with your class year).

In closing, I remain confident that as alumni, we have much to offer and accomplish for our School. I encourage you to share your thoughts with me, or join us at the next event or Veterinary Medical Alumni Society meeting. We hope to see you next month!

—Marilyn Weber, V’75
OCTOBER 2006

ALUMNI WEEKEND (October 6&7)

October 6th
9:00 a.m. – American Museum of Veterinary Medicine Meeting (formerly the Eastern Veterinary Historical Society)
The Hill Pavilion, Philadelphia, PA

10:30 a.m. – Veterinary Medical Alumni Society (VMAS) Annual Meeting
The Hill Pavilion, Philadelphia, PA

7:00 p.m. – Welcoming Dean’s Reception
The Hilton Inn at Penn, Philadelphia, PA

8:00 p.m. – Dinner
The Hilton Inn at Penn, Philadelphia, PA

October 7th – 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Alumni Picnic and Festivities
The Hill Pavilion, Philadelphia, PA

October 28th – 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Parents and Partners Day
The Hill Pavilion, Philadelphia, PA &
New Bolton Center, Kennett Square, PA

NOVEMBER 2006

November 3rd – Day
Board of Overseers Meeting
The Hill Pavilion, Philadelphia, PA

November 3rd – Evening
Rush Shippen Huidekoper Society Dinner and Campaign End Celebration
The Hill Pavilion, Philadelphia, PA

November 15th – 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
VMAS Board Meeting
New Bolton Center, Kennett Square, PA

November 27th – afternoon
White Coat Ceremony
Philadelphia campus

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

PENN ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2007

Issues in Critical Care
February 28, March 1 & March 2, 2007
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Mark your calendar for this exciting, expanded Penn Annual Conference. With a special Wednesday pre-conference seminar with the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association, and special offering of the PennHip seminar, this expanded three-day conference offers almost 20 CE credits.
anne Thorington (known as “Mimi” to her friends) owns and lives at Maple Leaf Farm, a 96-acre farm in East Fallowfield, Pa., about a 25-minute drive from New Bolton Center. Born in Center City, Philadelphia, she has been moving progressively farther west in a search of disappearing open spaces.

At Mimi’s farm are roughly 12 thoroughbred broodmares, their foals, some yearlings waiting to go to sales, Morgan horses for driving, retirees and Pembroke Welsh corgi dogs, which she has bred and raised. Just a mile down the road is the 700-acre Laurels Nature Preserve, under easement with the Brandywine Conservancy. This provides wonderful riding and driving paths in a beautiful nature setting.

Mimi’s involvement with race horses began in 1972 when she inherited some from the estate of her father, Graham French. Involvement with horses often leads to New Bolton Center, and Dr. Mark Allam, then dean of the Vet School, and Mr. French became friends. Mr. French’s interest was sharpened by several pleasure drives with Dr. Allam and his carriage horses.

Three of Mimi’s four children were successful show riders and fox hunters. Mimi hunted with the Radnor Hunt for many years and was the typical “horse show mother.” In 1993 she took up driving. This began with a Morgan-Percheron cross, which she purchased from the carriage tours in Cape May, N.J. The interest went from pleasure driving to combined driving. Mimi rode a Morgan, and then for the more advanced driving, she joined with world-class driver Lisa Singer. With Lisa as whip, they have represented the U.S. in Europe at the World Pair Championship, the “Olympics” of driving, for the past 12 years. Lisa and the “Beasties” are instantly recognizable here and overseas.

Surprisingly, it was Mimi’s love for another animal that first brought her to Penn Vet. One of Mimi’s Welsh corgis slipped a disc while she was out of town, and her dog’s caretaker, unaware of any local vets, brought the dog to the Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital in Philadelphia. During a Hospital tour, Mimi was introduced to Dr. Josephine Deubler, V’38, an associate of professional dog handler Peter Green, who showed Mimi’s next corgi for her.

With a smile, Mimi remembers her experiences at the often-hectic Ryan lobby when one of her dogs was undergoing regular cancer treatments. “If I was going to write a book, I would write one about the waiting room at the small animal hospital. It was just fascinating to watch the people who came in there. There were big bikers with tears in their eyes holding their little dogs as well as well-dressed ladies with their dogs and cats. Love for one’s animals puts everyone on the same level.”

Mimi’s contribution to establish the Widener Hospital’s Graham French Neonatal Section in 1985 was a tribute to her father, whose love of horses was one of his legacies to her. The decision to make the naming gift was an easy one for her. The School “needed a neonatal intensive care unit, they needed money, and it was going very slowly. That was—and still is—my main interest.” Mimi continues to be a loyal supporter of New Bolton Center in various capacities.

Indeed, Mimi and New Bolton Center have had a long, mutually beneficial relationship. She served on the Board of Overseers for two four-year terms. When asked of her feelings about the support she’s given to the Center over the years, Mimi responds without hesitation. “Well, they’ve given it all back to me. When I need help, they’re there. It was always nice to know that Dr. Charles Raker was there and, since his retirement, has passed his legacy on to many younger veterinarians.”
All eyes (and sometimes ears!) were on the macaws, cockatoos and conures that traveled to the camp with representatives of the Chester County Bird Club and the Bailey Foundation. Camp participants left with a realistic understanding of both the joys and challenges of sharing life with these beautiful, intelligent birds.

A live sea star and horseshoe crab from the New Jersey Academy for Aquatic Sciences were captivating animal ambassadors.

Dr. Cindy Otto, DVM, Dip. ACVECC, Ph.D., associate professor of emergency medicine and critical care, coordinated a dynamic outdoor demonstration of canine athletics, search-and-rescue dogs and sled dogs. Camp participants left with a realistic understanding of both the joys and challenges of sharing life with these beautiful, intelligent birds.

Officer Lawrence Love and his canine partner “Zeus,” of the Philadelphia Police Department’s K-9 Unit, taught camp participants about the invaluable role dogs play in law enforcement.

Baby pygmy goats proved irresistible to children and adults while encouraging camp participants to think and talk about how food is produced.

The camp culminated in a full-day program at the Ryan Veterinary Hospital, where Dr. Reid Groman, staff veterinarian, described the variety of fascinating work opportunities that exist in the field of veterinary medicine. Veterinary students helped campers learn about what pets need to be happy and healthy, and how to stay safe around dogs.

The Animal Art Adventure Camp, which premiered June 21, 2006, is a collaboration between the School’s Center for the Interaction of Animals and Society (CIAS) and the University City Arts League (UCAL, www.ucartsleague.org), a nonprofit community arts center located just a few blocks from the Vet School. The eight-day camp hosted 23 children aged 6 to 10. Each day, the children were immersed in a different animal-related topic (e.g., animal welfare, responsible pet care, sea life, wildlife, birds, reptiles, farm animals, butterflies, dogs with jobs and veterinary medicine) and were able to interact with animal ambassadors from many different species. Guest speakers and walking trips were complemented by animal-centric arts and crafts projects taught by UCAL faculty. Support for this program, provided by the ASPCA, enabled needs-based full and partial scholarships to be granted to eight local children from low-income families. More pictures and details are available at www.vet.upenn.edu/newsandevents/events/artadventurecamp.htm.

—KATHY KRUGER
Forty years ago, Scott Palmer, V’76, and his high school friend, Michael Matz, rode the trails of the Berks Pony Club in Reading, Pennsylvania and dreamed about ways that they “…might actually earn a living by working with horses.” Those dreams became reality as Dr. Palmer achieved international recognition as an equine surgeon and Matz became an Olympic rider and a highly successful trainer of performance horses, including Kentucky Derby champion Barbaro.

The two lifelong friends were together again at Pimlico Race Course, Laurel, Maryland, on that day in May 2006 when Barbaro suffered catastrophic injuries during the Preakness Stakes.

“It was an emotionally devastating moment for all of us,” recalls Dr. Palmer, who had witnessed the accident from the owner’s box at Pimlico. Matz called for Dr. Palmer to come down to the barn area to examine Barbaro. “It was determined that his skin was intact, and we thought that might give us some chance for success,” relates Dr. Palmer. “Then I looked at the radiographs along with the Pimlico veterinarians, and saw the horrifying extent of the horse’s injuries. It was clear what we needed to do to save him.”

Dr. Palmer delivered the news to Matz and Barbaro’s owners, Roy and Gretchen Jackson. “The only chance he has for survival is to have the pastern and cannon bone fractures repaired,” he told them. “Dean Richardson at New Bolton Center is the best person to do that.” With their agreement, Dr. Palmer immediately called New Bolton to make the arrangements, helped splint up Barbaro for the ambulance ride and followed him for the two and a half hour drive where he handed off the horse’s care to the New Bolton team.

“It was gratifying to be one small part of the team that gave Barbaro the chance to survive,” reflects Dr. Palmer.

Surgical Pioneer

As co-founder and director of the New Jersey Equine Clinic in Clarksburg, New Jersey, Dr. Palmer has made surgical treatment of high performance horses such as Barbaro the focus of his 30-year career. In addition to individual owners, his clinic serves clientele from regional racetracks throughout the Northeast and mid-Atlantic regions. In 1997, he began an expansion of his clinic with the construction of a state-of-the-art equine surgical facility on a sprawling 130-acre farm with turn-out paddocks. Since that time, the clinic staff has grown from five to 25 employees who annually care for approximately 3,000 horses, referred by veterinarians throughout the mid-Atlantic and Northeastern regions of the country. Dr. Palmer’s surgical staff includes Patricia Hogan, V’92 and Jennifer Smith, DVM, who completed her surgical residency training at New Bolton Center.

“We’ve been blessed with the opportunity to treat some really great horses,” says Dr. Palmer. “It’s a thrill to see them come back from a problem and do well at the race track. Over the years, we develop relationships with the owners as they come to us with problems and broken dreams, and it’s very gratifying to be able to help them as well as their horses.”

Dr. Palmer is world-renowned for his studies in equine sports injuries and for pioneering equine surgical techniques in arthroscopy, laparoscopy and minimally invasive surgery using lasers. He was one of the earliest...
veterinarians to perform joint arthroscopy and one of the first to perform transendoscopic surgery with lasers in the upper airway of horses. In addition, he pioneered a laparoscopic procedure for removing ovaries from mares.

Dr. Palmer credits the time he spent working as a student with Dr. Al Merritt in New Bolton Center’s research lab with inspiring him to develop new surgical techniques. “I felt very fortunate to spend two summers at New Bolton learning from great people like Dr. Merritt who got me excited about doing research and trying new things,” he recalls. “Dr. Charles Raker and Dr. Loren Evans were also pivotal in steering the course of my career. Dr. Raker was a role model for me when I was a student and he continues to be one for me today.”

**Giving Back**

“I’m grateful for the opportunities that veterinary medicine has afforded me and have tried to give back,” says Dr. Palmer, who has a long tradition of volunteer service to the profession. Currently, he is the immediate past president of the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP). He has also served as president of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners and the New Jersey Association of Equine Practitioners, as well as a board member of the New Jersey Veterinary Medical Association.

“As president of the AAEP, I had the rare opportunity to advance the health and welfare of horses worldwide by expanding the availability of continuing education programs to veterinarians throughout the world,” notes Dr. Palmer. Under his leadership, the first AAEP online continuing education courses were offered in partnership with the Veterinary Information Network and AAEP proceedings were made available worldwide through the International Veterinary Information Service. He also enabled AAEP speakers to participate in the annual congress of the the Federation of European Equine Veterinary Associations.

**Opportunity Scholarship**

Dr. Palmer has also established the New Jersey Equine Clinic Opportunity Scholarship to benefit Penn Veterinary School students interested in pursuing a career in equine practice. “We recognize the significant financial burden that veterinary students must bear in order to complete their professional education,” says Dr. Palmer. “In addition to reducing that burden, we established this scholarship to encourage more students to consider equine practice in particular.”

The first recipient of the New Jersey Equine Clinic Opportunity Scholarship is Taryn Gassert, a University of Delaware graduate who hails from the Reading area and belonged to the same Berks Pony Club where Dr. Palmer and Michael Matz rode as teenagers.

“Taryn has visited the clinic a few times and it’s great having her,” notes Dr. Palmer. “That personal contact between the sponsor and scholar is one of the things that makes the Opportunity Scholarship program so enjoyable. It’s rewarding to get to know and mentor a student as well as help financially.”

Dr. Palmer hopes to encourage more students to pursue equine practice.

“In the past, it used to be a one-person show where you were working 24/7, but that’s changed dramatically with group practices. Now equine practitioners have a lot more time for family and a balanced lifestyle as well as a rewarding career.”

Summing up his own career, Dr. Palmer says, “My personal philosophy is to leave the world a better place than you found it. Whether it’s building a new clinic to raise the level of care we can provide locally or advancing the profession nationally and internationally through associations like the AAEP, that’s what I’ve tried to do. When you look back in the rear view mirror, it’s important to be able to say, ‘Well, I pretty much like the view.’”

“Over the years, we develop relationships with the owners as they come to us with problems and broken dreams, and it’s very gratifying to be able to help them as well as their horses.”

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WWW.VET.UPENN.EDU/BELLWETHER 27
Surgery Suite Farewell

On April 26, 2006, after 100 years of use, student surgery in the Old Vet Quad held its last session. A party was held to celebrate the occasion and past professors, students, residents and interns were invited back to re-connect with colleagues, meet current students, and share wonderful stories of times gone by.

Ryan 25th Anniversary

On April 28, 2006, the Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital held the first of this year’s events to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Hospital opening. Clients attended a special reception and took a tour of the hospital. A presentation also was given, “The Melding of Medicine: Trends in Human and Animal Health,” by several of our clinicians.

Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue Course

From July 21 to 24, 2006, the Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue course (www.tlaer.org), including instruction in animal decontamination, was held at New Bolton Center. The class, which had nearly 60 participants, was designed for large-animal veterinarians, veterinary technicians, county animal response teams, firefighters, rescue squads and animal control officers.

Emergency personnel learned how to more safely prepare for and respond to large-animal incidents such as wrecked or overturned trailers, large animals loose on the road or stuck in mud or ravines, and chemical spills or other hazardous materials incidents involving large animals. Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association and the Pennsylvania State Animal Response Team, the course was generously funded by a grant from the Southeast Pennsylvania Regional Counter-Terrorism Task Force.

Alumni Reception at AVMA Meeting

In July, more than 100 alumni and friends attended Penn Vet’s alumni reception at the American Veterinary Medical Association’s meeting in Hawaii. A special highlight was the presentation of the Living Legend Award to Dr. William H. Waddell, V’35, the oldest living member of the Buffalo Soldiers, the black cavalry unit of the U.S. Army activated after the Civil War. Dr. Waddell served in the Italian campaign during World War II.

Dr. Waddell with Dean Joan Hendricks and his daughter, Kathryn Takara (left).
The Veterinary Medical Student Government Excellence in Teaching Award Ceremony was held April 26, 2006, at Irvine Auditorium. An audience of more than 275 students, faculty and staff applauded the award recipients selected by the student body.

Dr. Patricia Sertich, V’83, associate professor of reproduction, New Bolton Center, was awarded the Carl Norden–Pfizer Distinguished Teacher Award. Dr. James “Sparky” Lok, professor of parasitology, received the Dean’s Award for Leadership in Basic Sciences. Dr. David Holt, professor of surgery, chief of Surgery Section, Clinical Studies–Philadelphia, received the Dean’s Award for Leadership in Clinical Science.

The Class of 2006 Teaching Awards were presented to Dr. Brian Palmeiro, V’05 (intern); Drs. Adrienne Bentley and Sarah Dukti (surgery residents); Jennifer Parker and Emily Zug (technicians); and Drs. Imogen Johns, lecturer, and Mark Rondeau, staff veterinarian, internal medicine (faculty).

Dr. Karen Rosenthal, associate professor of special species medicine and surgery, and director of the Special Species Service at the Ryan Veterinary Hospital, and Dr. Sertich were given the Class of 2007 Faculty Teaching Awards.

Dr. Robert Gilley, assistant professor of surgery, Clinical Studies–Philadelphia, received the Class of 2008 Faculty Teaching Award.

Dr. Peter Dodson, professor of anatomy, and Dr. Billy Smith, assistant professor of medicine at NBC, were presented with the Class of 2009 Faculty Teaching Awards.

The VMSG Commendation Award, which recognizes individuals who have provided support, encouragement and a caring, helping hand to the student body, was given jointly to James Morris (NBC), large-animal attendant, and Sarah Whealen (Phila.), curriculum coordinator.

Other awards given to staff in Clinical Studies–Philadelphia include: the Interns Award to a Resident for Outstanding Teaching: Dr. Margaret Fordham, surgery; the Residents Award to a Faculty Member for Outstanding Teaching: Dr. David Diefenderfer, V’81, senior research associate and orthopaedic surgeon; the Jules and Lucy Silver Animal Bedside Manner Award: Dr. Michael Koch, V’04, medicine resident; the Harcum College Veterinary Technician Awards: Eileen Rule and Donna Sisak; the Gretchen Wolf Swartz Veterinary Technician Award: Emily Zug; and the Senior Student Patient Care Awards: Dana Clarke, Meagan Connolly and Kari Lyon.

Other awards given to staff in Clinical Studies–NBC include the Dr. Boucher Award, given to Dr. Dukti; and a Special Award in Recognition of Professor Nancy Gartland.
Presentation of Awards

Leonard Pearson Prize ................................................. Koranda Alicia Wallace
J.B. Lippincott Prize .................................................. Koranda Alicia Wallace
1930 Class Prize in Surgery ............................................ Kimberly Ann Russell

Auxiliary to the American

Veterinary Medical Association Prize ................................ Ezza Jacob Steinberg
Faculty/Student Chapter, AVMA Prize ................................ David Scott Paull
Phi Zeta Award ............................................................ Maureen Anne Luschini

Acknowledgement of Awards

American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists Award ........................................ Clarissa Burkhart Lyon
American Animal Hospital Association Award ..................................................... Amanda Trexler Parton

American College of Veterinary Radiology Award ............................................. Gillian Rachael Harclerode

American College of Veterinary Surgeons Prizes

Small Animal Surgery Prize ................................................... Sarah Hammond Reed
Large Animal Surgery Prize .................................................... Caitlin Mara Roberts
Everingham Prize for Cardiology ........................................................................ Gordon Dan Peddle
Field Service Prize .............................................................................................. Lyndsay Blair Summers
The Peter Francis Anatomy Award .................................................................... Kathleen Ann Jenson
Hill’s Award .......................................................................................................... Meagan Lynn Connolly
James Hazlitt Jones Prize in Biochemistry ....................................................... Leslie Cavalcanti McLaughlin
Large Animal Medicine Prize ........................................................................... Joan Lynch Norton
Large Animal Surgery Prize ................................................................................ Leslie Cavalcanti McLaughlin

Merck Awards

Small Animal Award ......................................................................................... Tara McCaffery
Large Animal Award ........................................................................................... Daniel Jude Zawisza
1956 Class Award for Achievement in Pathology ........................................ Kathryn Elizabeth Colyer
George M. Palmer Prize ...................................................................................... Jennifer Rachel Feiner
Pfizer Animal Health Small Animal Clinical Proficiency Award ......................... Jeanne Elizabeth Ficociello
Pfizer Swine Proficiency Award .......................................................................... Brett Alison Kaspers
Pfizer Veterinary Specialty Team Award in Analgesia/Anesthesia ............................ Dana Lynn Clarke
Pfizer Veterinary Specialty Team Award in Emergency Medicine and Critical Care ............................. Meghan Louise Stalker
Pfizer Veterinary Specialty Team Award in Internal Medicine ............................. Leslie Anne Kucznyski
Charles F. Reid Sports Medicine and Imaging Award ........................................ Caitlin Mara Roberts
Lynn Sammons Food Animal Award ..................................................................... Jennifer Rae Swallow
Schering-Plough Award for Swine Production Medicine ..................................... Ines Rodriguez
VECCS Award for Proficiency in Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Medicine ........................................ Dana Lynn Clarke
Morris L. Ziskind Prize in Food Animal Medicine .............................................. Mechelle Dyan Regester
Morris L. Ziskind Prize in Public Health .................................................................. Mariah Ann Gentes

* Karen Michelle Meltzer-Driben
* Kathleen Ann Jenson
* Mariah Ann Gentes
* Lauren Michelle Greene
* Kimberly Harris Greiner
* Jaime Faye Griffin
* Lydia Hathagen Hamilton
* Kathleen Hanlon
* Gillian Rachael Harclerode
* Anne Rebecca Heskel
* Deborah Alice Hirschmann
* Adam Dale Hoover
* Kathleen Ann Jenson
* Beverly Cathryn Jogan
* Brett Alison Kaspers
* Tierney Ann Kelly
* Jennifer Joungwon Kim
* Daniel Gabriel Kirsch
* Leslie Anne Kucznyski
* Amanda Leigh Lanz
* Lyndsy O’Mara Larson
* Tiffany Jennifer Lehr
* Jamie Lynn Lewis
* Maureen Anne Luschini
* Clarissa Burkhart Lyon
* Kari Lyon
* Timothy Mann
* Sarah Frances Matese
* Tara McCaffery
* Leslie Cavalcanti McLaughlin
* Karen Michelle Meltzer-Driben
* Michael William Miller IV
* Denise Michelle Newsom
* Jeanne Marie Neylon-Dudas
* Joan Lynch Norton
* Maya Novgorodsky
* Sarah Hale O’Neill
* Mary Margaret Palopoli
* Amanda Trexler Parton
* Michelle Helen Patrick
David Scott Paull ♦
Gordon Dan Peddle ♦
Pamela Blair Pendley ♦
Lora Heather Perl
Anthony George Poutous ♦
Carlisle Marianna Rand ♦
Sarah Hammond Reed ♦
Mechelle Dyan Regester ♦
Dana Marie Rigby ♦
Caitlin Mara Roberts ♦
Scott Ford Roberts ♦
Ines Rodriguez
Alberto Jaime Rullán-Mayol ♦
Kimberly Ann Russell
Nadine Andrea Salomon
Karen Nicole Schreiber ♦
Christie Lyn Schroth ♦
Jennifer Catherine Smetana ♦
Rebecca Eleanor Spivack ♦
Meghan Louise Stalker ♦
Ezra Jacob Steinberg ♦
Jennifer Bruce Stevens ♦
Lyndsay Blair Summers ♦
Tina Cheng-Yun Sung ♦
Marisa Suvannavej ♦
Jennifer Rae Swallow ♦
Rachel Jean Swetz
Aï Takeuchi ♦
Alanna Joy Toll
Brandy Mac Uhl ♦
Bonnie Joanna Valiente ◊
Marc Tran Valitutto
Christin Lani Veeder
Amy Pearl Villano ♦
Lorelei Amarantha Wakefield
Koranda Alicia Wallace
Margaret Ann Weil
Amy Beth Will
Kristina Nicole Willoughby ♦
Rebecca Elizabeth Wolf ♦
Alison Lynn Wolfgram ♦
Natalie Jean Zambon ♦
Daniel Jude Zawisza ♦
Sarah Rachelle Zimmerman ♦

Senior Year Dean’s List
Member Phi Zeta, Beta Chapter
National Honor Society of Veterinary Medicine
Completed the Pfizer-Penn Veterinary Medicine Business Certificate Program
Indicates August 4, 2006 Graduate
Indicates December 20, 2006 Graduate

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